



As part of its mission, the Seeley Lake Community Foundation endeavors to help charitable groups in Seeley Lake fund projects to benefit the community. In this capacity, the SLCF strives to be a community resource and catalyst for innovative approaches to improving the quality of life in Seeley Lake. The Small Grants Program supports the ever-changing needs of a community that is diverse and growing. Qualifying non-profit and public organizations are afforded the opportunity to receive assistance from the Foundation, provided the specified needs meet the scope and provisions as outlined in the grant application guidelines and process. The final consideration rests with the Seeley Lake Community Foundation in determining the community's current needs and priorities. Unsuccessful grant applicants are encouraged to apply again during future grant cycles and to seek input on how to better enhance or qualify the application.

Grants will be awarded in amounts of \$100 to \$2,500, based on the availability of funds for the year. The grants will be funded from earnings from the Seeley Lake Community Foundation endowment and gifts from individuals and businesses to the Foundation.

Applications that address one or more of the five areas of interest – Education, Arts & Culture, Community Development, Natural Resources & Conservation, and Basic Human Needs – will be considered. Project ideas are provided for each of the five areas of interest but other innovative proposals will be considered, if they meet the objectives for broad-community benefits.

Education

- Projects and efforts that seek to close the achievement gap among students.
- Projects that foster creativity and experiential learning in the classroom.
- Projects that promote literacy and life-long learning.
- Collaborative projects with other teachers, non-profit organizations (such as museums, libraries, theater companies, human service agencies, etc.) and business-education entities.

Arts & Culture

- Projects that broaden, deepen, and diversify the public's awareness of and engagement in local arts and cultural activities.
- Projects that increase the creation and performance of art forms that reflect the diversity and cultural history of our community.
- Projects that offer children and youth experiences in the arts.
- Projects that seek to increase the venues for art exhibition and performances.
- Collaborative projects with other non-profit organizations, government agencies, and business entities.

Community Development

- Projects that help strengthen our economy and build financial stability for our community.
- Projects that work to unify and build community support and capacity to improve the quality of life for all members of the community.
- Projects that create or retain jobs in our community.
- Projects that support affordable housing initiatives in the community.
- Projects that promote and recognize citizen volunteerism.
- Projects that promote the physical development of a town center and hub for activities.
- Collaborative projects with other non-profit organizations, government agencies, and business entities.

Natural Resources & Conservation

- Projects that promote positive stewardship of our timber, water and other natural resources.
- Projects that recognize and protect the unique ecological setting of the Seeley Lake region.
- Projects that provide opportunities in environmental education and conservation.
- Projects that promote open space and greater recreational opportunities.
- Collaborative projects with other non-profit organizations or government agencies to ensure sustainability of the regions natural resources.

Basic Human Needs

- Projects that help low-income and disadvantaged children and adults meet basic needs for food, clothing, and emergency and permanent housing.
- Projects that address family violence.
- Projects that expand opportunities for persons with disabilities
- Projects that initiate or strengthen services for recovery from illness or substance abuse.
- Collaborative projects with other non-profit organizations (such as community medical services, hospitals, government agencies, human service agencies, etc.) to provide dependable, basic services to community members.

Grant applications are accepted twice a year, during two granting cycles, **January 31 and June 30**. To be considered, applications must be submitted on the Seeley Lake Community Foundation Small Grant Program application form according to the specific guidelines, and postmarked on or before the deadline for the appropriate granting cycle.

To download an application form for the Small Grants Program, please go to the Seeley Lake Community Foundation website – www.seeleylakecommunityfoundation.org

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant organization must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or an exempt governmental unit, hospital, educational institution, etc..
- If applicant organization is not tax-exempt, it must be sponsored, in writing, by a tax-exempt organization.
- Applicant organization must be located in and/or provide services that directly benefit the community of Seeley Lake, Montana.

General Guidelines

The Seeley Lake Community Foundation (SLCF) will consider requests for special projects, ongoing programs, and one-time capital projects.

As a general practice, the SLCF will **not** consider the following types of requests:

- To benefit specific individuals,
- Grants to endowment funds,
- Loans, debt retirement, or to replace operational deficits,
- Contributions to organizations whose policy or practice discriminates against race, ethnic origin, sex, religion, or sexual orientation when employing staff or providing services, and
- Contributions to sectarian or religious organizations whose principal activity is for the benefit of their own members or adherents.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a selection sub-committee of the SLCF Board of Directors. If an application is favorably reviewed, it will receive final approval by the Board of Directors and may be partially or totally funded. Funding is ultimately contingent upon availability of funds within the foundation's annual budget. Among grant requests that are otherwise acceptable to the foundation, the board will establish priorities based upon objective and subjective criteria. These criteria will include:

- *Project Viability*
 - What is the quality of the project design and content?
 - What is the expertise/track record of the key individuals and organizations involved?
 - What is the impact of full or partial funding from the SLCF?
 - Is there credible evidence of the organization's ability to sustain the project beyond the duration of the grant?
- *Organizational Capacity*
 - How clear is the organization's statement of purpose?
 - Do the qualifications of the key individuals and board indicate the organization's ability to successfully carry out the proposed project?
 - Can the organization demonstrate it has the managerial, programmatic, and financial capacity to implement the project?
- *Community Engagement*
 - How many people will be served by the project?
 - Is there community demand for the project?
 - How are community members involved in the project?
 - Do other local/regional organizations support or collaborate in the project?